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Regional Service Council Minutes

Region #12

Meeting Date: May 09, 2011
Meeting Location: Fayette County DCS Conference Room
Meeting Chair: Vickie Jones
Meeting Secretary: Myrna Baldwin

Meeting Called to Order at: 3:32 p.m.

Roll Call:

Council Members Present: Vickie Jones, DCS Regional Manager; Kelly Persinger and Erin Lambert, Franklin County DCS; Mary Willis, Judge, Henry Circuit Court; Jackie Reed, Union County DCS; Courtney Mathews, Wayne and Union County DCS; Beth Ann Butsch, Fayette County Circuit Court; John Huffman, Henry County DCS; Mark Munchel, Fayette County DCS and Farrah Chambers, Fayette County DCS by proxy Kathy Hobson.

Council Members Absent: Brian Hill, Judge, Rush Superior Court; Karen Bowen, Wayne County CASA and Frank Paddock, foster parent representative.

Others In Attendance: Bob Daugherty, DCS Regional Finance Manager; Karen Blessinger, Henry County DCS; Melanie Wright, Gibault; Rick Humbarger, Lifeline; Jon Bennett and Carl Scheib, and Matt Fisher, Children's Bureau; Kristin Obermeyer, Regional Child Welfare Services Coordinator; Susan Lightfoot, Henry County Probation; Jennifer James, Henry County Youth Center; Paul Deardorff, Nikki Leisgang, and Brian Griffiths, Forpsych; John VanWickler, White's Family Services; Michael Fleming, Henry County DCS; Kory George, Wayne County Probation; Pete Petro, Mentor Homes and Dan Turner, Resolute Options Resource.

Meeting Minutes

- I. **Welcome, Introductions and New Members**
 - a) Meeting agenda distributed by Vickie Jones.



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- b) Kathy Hobson, Family Case Manager (FCM), Fayette County Department of Child Services, (DCS), votes in proxy for Farrah Chamber, Fayette County DCS.
- c) New members to the council, Beth Ann Butsch, Judge, Fayette Circuit Court, and John Huffman, FCM, Henry County DCS, were introduced.

II. **Update on Community Partners for Child Safety Program:**

The *Community Partners for Child Safety* report for the first quarter of 2011 was distributed by Carl Scheib.

- First quarter referrals: 104 and remaining steady
- Material relief: total \$2,595 serving 24 families at an average amount of \$108 per family.
- Prevent Child Abuse Awareness: Contracts for Medi-bags in Wayne, Fayette, Rush, Henry and Franklin Counties have been extended; Advertising with Prefix has been changed to reflect Pinwheels of Change for Child Abuse.
- Upcoming events: Naomi Griffith- June 9, 2011; Fayette County Children's Fall Festival; October Domestic Violence Awareness month.
- Scheib report that Outcomes regarding Continuous Quality Improvement are off to a good start in 2011 particularly, the outcome of families receiving eight (8) or more face to face contacts will not have a substantiated child abuse case following the 8th contact for a period of 12 months after discharge. Scheib reported the state standard changes July 01, 2011, to 95%. Region 12 is currently at 98%.

III. **Prevention Budget:**

Jones distributed a draft of the recommendations for the Child Welfare Services "Brokered" Allocated Funds. She noted the allotted funds for 2010-2011 total \$224,333, an amount less than last year's allotment. Recommendations include:

Prevention Services TBD	\$59,582.95;
Domestic Violence	\$5,375.00;
Prevent Child Abuse	\$5,375.00;
Community Partners staffing and operations	\$124,000.00;
Community Partners Material Relief	\$30,000.00;

bringing the grand total to \$224,332.95.

Judge Willis expressed her concerns that Substance Abuse was not listed, questioning if it was due to a lack of interest. Jones stated that a Request for Proposal (RFP) had been posted several times, with no interest. She agreed that Substance Abuse is a huge need in the region.

Kelly Persinger moved to approve as drafted with Jackie Reed seconding. The measure passed with one (1) opposing vote cast by Judge Willis.

IV. **Children's Bureau, Inc. Father Engagement Services:**

Jon Bennett informed the council of the service to engage fathers that has been implemented in three (3) pilot regions, 8, 5 and 16. Region 12 is set to begin accepting referrals on July 1, 2011. The program seeks to advocate, educate and empower fathers of



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children and families who have substantiated cases of abuse and/or neglect and will likely develop into an open case with IA or CHINS status or the status of JD/JS. Bennett noted the liaison between fathers and DCS, the Father Engagement Case Manager, (FECM), will have an office presence/space and interact on a daily basis with the FCM's.

The FECM will work to engage non-resident or non-custodial fathers: 1) who can't be located and require additional search efforts; 2) whose whereabouts are unknown; 3) who are minimally engaged and needs to strengthen his network of support; and 4) the father that does almost everything, but needs additional supports. They will work with incarcerated fathers and fathers who need assistance working through the legal system, including child support issues.

Bennett stressed the importance of engaging fathers by citing statistics on children with absent fathers. He also noted that in the past 15 months of working with the pilot program, eight (8) fathers have been awarded custody of their children. Bennett will be working closely with Vickie Jones regarding the program and will be meeting with staff prior to July.

V. Budget Update:

Bob Daugherty, Regional Finance Manager, (RFM), distributed the *Family and Children Services Expenditures vs. Budget Report- Region 12 State Fiscal Year 2010-2011, Cumulative for April 2011*, which shows Region 12 under budget at 75%. Daugherty stated we don't want to go above 83% of budget expenditures. He noted Region 12 is serving more children this year for less cost than 2010. April 2010, totals showed 672 children served with an average cost of \$9,397 per child. April 2011, totals show 783 served at a cost of \$7,220 per child.

VI. Biennial Regional Services Strategic Plan:

Kristin Obermeyer distributed the Development of Biennial Plan Timeline for Region 12. The plan will combine the Child Protection Plan and complete each regions service needs and action plan and will be used over the next two (2) years. A work group consisting of: DCS Local Office Directors; the DCS RFM; a Probation representative; Judge or designee; "211" representative; a former client; foster parent; and CASA/GAL, will meet six (6) times from now until December.

Jones informed the council that an organizational meeting will be held Thursday, May 12, 2011, at 10:00 A.M. at the Fayette County DCS office. She noted it was short notice for commitment but welcomed attendance by those present. She also stated the Public Hearing would need to be held at the next RSC meeting in August.

VII. Other Issues:

- Jones called for vote to ensure George Jr. would be reimbursed for providing Independent Living (IL) services for Region 12. She noted it could not be found in previous minutes where the council approved this service. Judge Willis moved to approve with Kelly Persinger seconding. The motion passed with no dissenting votes.
- Jones reiterated that an RFP can be issued for a needed service such as Substance Abuse assessment and treatment and Diagnostic Evaluation for in/out patient. Susan Lightfoot expressed a need for psych evaluation services.



- Scheib asked if something could be done regarding the homeless. Jones noted that would fall into the Biennial Plan.
- Judge Willis reported that she had attended a Cradles meeting and was impressed with the collaborating between agencies. She added the dollars awarded by the RSC for that program were being well spent.

Public Comments:

There were no public comments.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be August 8, 2011 at 3:30 P.M. in the conference room of the Indiana Department of Child Services, Fayette County Local Office.

Meeting Adjourned:

Meeting adjourned at 4:18 P.M.



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